

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGR-05 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

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FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4736

INFO USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECON, CH

SUBJECT: KIANGSI MEETING OF TACHING

REFS: A) HONG KONG 4209

B) HONG KONG A-86

1. A REPORT OF A KIANGSI PROVINCIAL MEETING ON LEARNING FROM TACHING (NANCHANG RS APRIL 24) HAS POINTED UP THAT PROVINCE'S RELATIVELY POOR INDUSTRIAL AND AGRICULTURAL SETTING. KIANGSI MAKES NO PERCENTAGE CLAIM FOR INCREASE IN OVERALL INDUSTRIAL OUTPUT VALUE SINCE THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION, ONLY STATING THAT IT HAS INCREASED AT A "MUCH FASTER RATE" THAN DURING THE PREVIOUS 17 YEARS. THE REPORT SPECIFIES A NUMBER OF ITEMS -- COAL, STEEL, POWER GENERATION, CHEMICAL FERTILIZERS, TRACTORS, AND CEMENT -- AS HAVING GROWN BY VARIOUS PERCENTAGES THAT RANGE FROM FAIR TO GOOD, PRESUMABLY OVER A RELATIVELY LOW BASE IN 1965.

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2. THE ONLY TARGET PUBLICIZED IS TO REALIZE AGRICULTURAL MECHANIZATION "IN THE MAIN" BEFORE 1980. OTHER GUIDELINES LAID DOWN REFLECT PRESENT NATIONAL ECONOMIC POLICY IN THEIR FOCUS ON SUPPORT AGRICULTURE ACTIVITIES AND ON COORDINATED MUTUAL SUPPORT BETWEEN AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRY. ALSO APPARENT -- THOUGH NOT EXCEPTIONAL UNDER EXISTING INVESTMENT STRINGENCIES -- IS THE EMPHASIS ON "DILIGENCE AND THRIFT", PRACTICING "STRICT ECONOMY", AND UTILIZING EXISTING PLANT, EQUIPMENT, AND RESOURCES TO THE FULLEST. THE CONFERENCE ALSO SINGLED OUT COAL PRODUCTION AND TRANSPORT AS "WEAK LINKS" REQUIRING SPECIAL ATTENTION.

3. COMMENT: ITS IMPORTANCE UNDERLINED BY THE PRESENCE OF UNNAMED CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS, KIANGSI'S CONFERENCE ON TACHING IS THE SECOND SUCH PROVINCIAL MEETING TO BE PUBLICIZED RECENTLY (SEE REFTEL AND REFAIR). COMPARED TO HUPEH, WHERE THE OTHER MEETING WAS HELD, KIANGSI COMES OFF RATHER POORLY. UNLIKE HUPEH, KIANGSI SETS NO INDUSTRIAL OUTPUT TARGETS OTHER THAN A RATHER LOOSE GOAL OF ACHIEVING AGRICULTURAL MECHANIZATION "IN THE MAIN" BY 1980. ON BALANCE, KIANGSI COMES ACROSS AS BEING ALMOST MORE PREOCCUPIED WITH PROBLEMS RATHER THAN WITH ACHIEVEMENTS OR GOALS. IT SERVES TO REMIND THAT DIFFERENT PROVINCES DO NOT START FROM UNIFORM ECONOMIC BASES (KIANGSI MADE NO INDUSTRIAL OUTPUT CLAIM IN 1974 AND ONLY CLAIMED A "GOOD" HARVEST IN 1974 AFTER FOUR YEARS OF NO AGRICULTURAL CLAIMS) AND CAN THEREFORE LOOK FORWARD TO NON-UNIFORM PROGRESS. CROSS

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